

Making (Beeswax) Container Candles with Essential Oils

SUPPLIES

- I Heat source (hot plate, stove, etc.)

- 2 Large metal or enamelware pot suitable for candle making

- 3 Heat proof measuring cup or standard “melt & pour pot”

- 4 Metal trivet/cooking stone/cookie cutters/grate

- 5 Candy thermometer (e.g., cooking or candy thermometer)

- 6 Beeswax (dry weight = liquid weight) (or Soy, see class!)

- 7 Essential oils (no fragrance oils)

- 8 Heat safe candle container (2”-3” diameter)

- 9 Tabbed, cotton core wicks & tab/tack stickers

- 10 Wick stabilizers

- 11 Goggles and mask for working with essential oils

- 12 Stirring rod to incorporate essential oils (glass preferred)

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STEPS

Fill a large pot with 1 to 2 inches (2.5 to 5 cm) of water. *The pot should be able to hold your heat proof “melt and pour” pot.*

- Use an electric stove or hot plate when possible. Gas stoves are usually safe, but if your wax does manage to reach its flash point (400 F), the vapors may find the gas flame of your stove and ignite.
- 1 • ***You could always use a double boiler!** (Water boils at 212 degrees Fahrenheit (100 degrees Celsius). A double boiler ensures the wax will be unlikely to exceed this temperature.)*
- Never expose wax directly to a heat source. Doing so can cause the wax to melt unevenly and may result in scorching or fires.

Place your trivet or grate into the pot holding the water.

- 2 This keeps your melting pot further away from the direct heat source.

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- 3 **Place your “melt and pour” container onto the trivet/grate.**

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- 4 **Place the weighed wax inside the “melt and pour pot”,** ensuring water NEVER gets on the wax.
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STEPS

- Monitor & slowly let the wax melt to its “additive” temperature (temp to add the EOs).**
- Never leave melting wax unattended.
 - Beeswax melts around 144 degrees F; do not exceed 170 degrees F as beeswax may take on a dark hue and lose its inherent aroma past this point.
 - Add water to the lower pan as needed: never let it get dry!
 - “Low and slow” is your mantra when melting wax.
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- 6 Remove the “melt and pour” container** from the heat source once the “additive” temperature of the wax is reached.
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- Immediately add your essential oils to the melted wax and stir to incorporate.**
Wear goggles and a mask and ensure there is good ventilation when adding the oils!
- 7**
- Essential oils: No more than 3% of candle weight, beeswax (1 ml per ounce of wax)
 - Note: Soy has an issue: if too much EO is added it might separate/ooze out.
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- 8 Heat your candle containers** while the aromatic wax is cooling to its “pour temp.”
Heat to ~125 F (no more than 150 F) to avoid “pull away” of wax from the container.
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STEPS

Wicks! Wicks: must be primed (to rid of air pockets) and most you buy are primed

- Modern-day wicks are tightly woven or braided threads of cotton or other fabric material; sometimes including a core (cotton, paper, zinc).
- 9 • Place your wick into the jar & stabilize the wick
- **Do a “tack pour”: put ½” of wax into the container if you are not using a double-sided tack sticker to stabilize the metal tab, center the wick and place it against the bottom of the container. Stabilize the wick or hold it until the wax cools enough to hold the tab and wick in place.*
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Slowly pour the aromatic wax into the warmed container.

- Some wax (especially harder wax like beeswax rather than soy) requires a “cap pour” to get rid of air. When ~1/8” of the wax hardens, break the surface (e.g., chopstick) and make several holes around the wick. Pour wax into these
- 10 holes. This removes air bubbles & fills the centers possible depression that is caused by the cooling process. (In the ideal world, things would all be at the same temperature when poured to avoid this.)
- *Note: you could also apply the heat of a hair dryer or heat gun to even out the wax.*
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- 11 **Let the wax solidify, then trim the wick to size. Let candles cure, at least 5 days, before Buring.**
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USAGE GUIDELINES

A Cut wick to $\frac{1}{4}$ " each time before use.

B Let candles burn for 1 hour (up to 2 hours) for even burning.

C Do not burn ANY candle for > 3 hours as it may change the structure of the wax (especially pillar candles).

D Do not burn the candle for *less than* an hour; the goal is to let the pool of melted wax reach the container perimeter to ensure even burning for the life of the candle.
